WHEN IT WAS TIME,
I WAS TO FOLLOW HIM WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT.

LIVING IN THIS CONSTANT AGONY,
I WISHED I COULD JUST DIE SO I WOULDN'T FEEL ANYTHING...

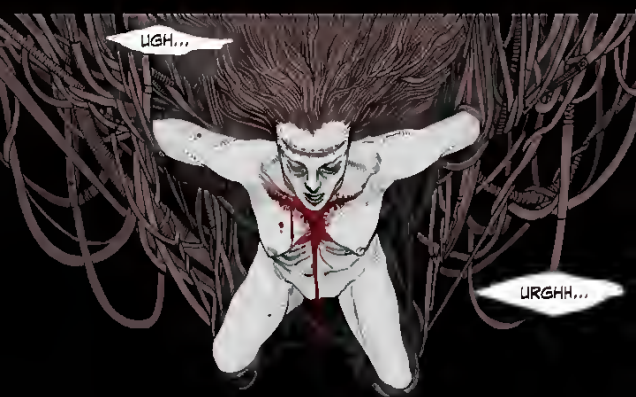
I PRETENDED IT WAS FROM FALLING OVER. BUT WE ALL KNEW.

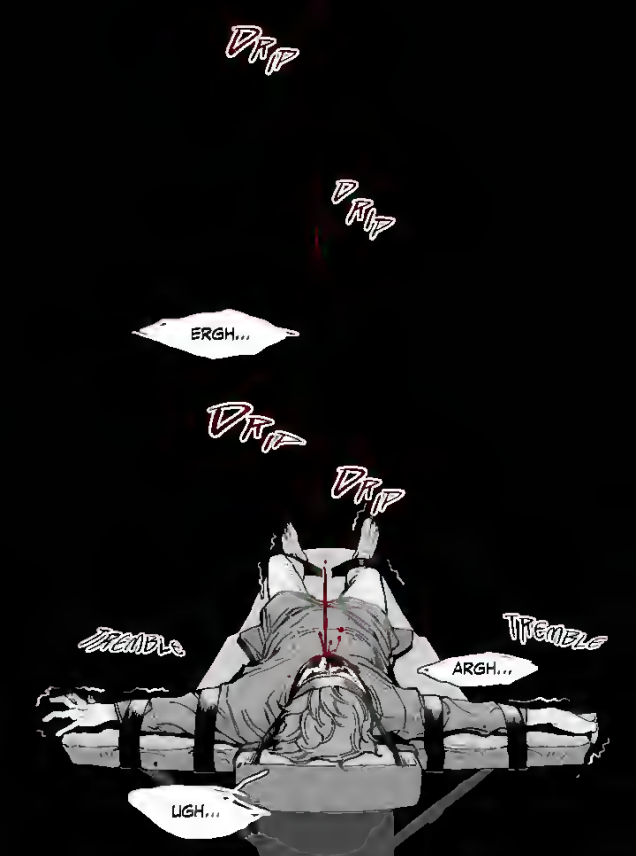
THE ONLY WAY I'D LEAVE THIS PLACE WAS BY EITHER KILLING MYSELF, OR IF THEY KILLED ME.

BUT WHENEVER I TRIED TO BITE MY TONGUE OFF, ALL I COULD FEEL WAS MORE PAIN.

WE'RE LUCKY HIS TONGUE'S STILL THERE. WE ONLY NEED TO STITCH UP THE PART THAT WAS CUT...
WE TIED HIM UP BECAUSE HE DIVED INTO THE VENTILATOR. BUT NOW HE'S BITING HIS TONGUE...
CLINK
THAT'S NO GOOD...

AFTER MY MOM WAS FREED FROM HER SUFFERING BY THESE PEOPLE, SHE KEPT APPEARING AS A GHOST.





BUT AS I KEPT SEEING HER...

I REALIZED THAT WASN'T THE MOM THAT LEFT ME AND SIRA BEHIND...

IT WAS MY HORROR THAT I WOULD DIE FEELING
THIS PAIN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

GIRA ALWAYS HELD MY HAND.

WHENEVER I HAD NIGHTMARES...

GULP

TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP

CLENCH
W-WAIT!

W-WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO US IF WE LEAVE?
LET'S NOT GO! NO...I WANT TO STAY HERE...SO YOU SHOULD STAY TOO.

IF WE CAN'T FOLLOW MOM, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, DON'T WE?!
DO YOU LIKE IT HERE? ARE YOU HAPPY?!

EVEN IF WE'RE NOT HAPPY, THEY PROTECT US, DON'T THEY?
THEY FEED US AND KEEP US WARM!

GIVE ME A BREAK.
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU'RE HAPPY BEING THEIR LAB RAT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE?

ALWAYS IN PAIN...
ALWAYS COVERED IN BRUISES AND BEING MONITORED...
ARE YOU CONTENT WITH NOT BEING ABLE TO SEE A SINGLE RAY OF SUNLIGHT UNTIL YOU DIE??
IS THAT HAPPINESS?

DID YOU FORGET HOW MOM DIED ALREADY?
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T SEE WHAT THEY DID TO MOM.
BUT... THEY SAID IT WOULD BE EVEN SCARIER OUTSIDE.
MORE PAINFUL...
...AND EVEN MORE GRUESOME!
HE SAID THIS PLACE IS SAFER AND WARMER AND WE DIDN'T NEED TO WORRY HERE.
...WHO?

WHO SAID THAT?

WAS IT MACHIA?

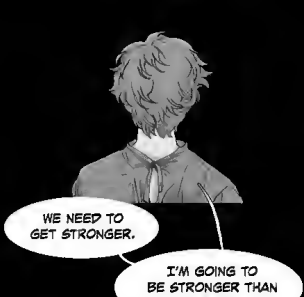
....

SNAP

FWIP
STOMP
STOMP

WHENEVER I TRIED TO BITE MY TONGUE OFF,
ALL I COULD FEEL WAS MORE PAIN.

IF THAT'S HOW IT WAS GOING TO BE,
I DECIDED I NEEDED TO BECOME STRONGER,
I NEEDED TO GET A BODY THAT COULD HURT THEM,
AND STOP ME FROM FEELING PAIN.



I PROMISED HER,
THAT IF WE COULDN'T FOLLOW HER, I'D BECOME STRONGER AND PROTECT YOU.
IF I'M STRONG, YOU AND I WON'T HAVE TO FEEL PAIN.
I...
I...DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOOD AND WHAT'S BAD.
EVEN IF WE'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO GET OUT, WHAT IF WE END UP SOMEWHERE WORSE?
WHAT IF IT'S THE SAME OUTSIDE?
...I'M SCARED, AREN'T YOU, YURA?

I'M... MORE SCARED OF STAYING STILL.
MOVE IT TO THE RECOVERY ROOM.
CREAK
!!
RATTLE
HUH?! THOSE RATS!!
QUICK!
DASH
WE HAVE TO GET TO THE GARBAGE CHUTE
PANT
PANT
PANT

BANG
BEEEEEEEP
PLEASE INSERT THE GARBAGE.
STOP RIGHT THERE!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU PLANNING THIS TIME?!
CLANK
QUICK! THIS IS OUR ONLY CHANCE!!
PLEASE INSERT THE GARBAGE.
YOU LITTLE...!
STOP RIGHT THERE!
CALL SECURITY!
SUBJECTS 0501 AND 0502 HAVE ESCAPED!
I NEED BACKUP AT THE WESTERN WARD.
SUBJECTS ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE THROUGH THE GARBAGE CHUTE!!

UNDERSTOOD. HEADING TO THE WESTERN WARD RIGHT NOW. CLOSING DOWN THE INCINERATION CHAMBER.
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

STOP!!
YU-YURA!
HURRY! WE CAN'T LET EITHER ONE OF THEM ESCAPE!!

WOOSH

CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE

CRACK
KYAAA!!
UWAAH!!
DAMNED RATS!
CLINK
ARGH
CRACK

SWOOSH
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CSCI!
STOP THAT AT ONCE!!
WHERE ARE OUR REINFORCEMENTS?!
THERE'S NOWHERE TO ESCAPE! DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH!
YEAH RIGHT! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING TO US WITHOUT MACHIA ANYWAY!
INCINERATION CHAMBER CLOSING IN 30 SECONDS.
SIRA! THIS IS OUR LAST CHANCE! I'LL STOP THE DOCTORS, SO JUMP DOWN!
QUICK!!

EVEN IF YOU JUMP DOWN, YOU'LL BE BURNED TO A CRISP! ARE YOU THAT DESPERATE TO DIE?
YOU HUMANS DIE EASILY BECAUSE OF YOUR STUPID DESIRES.
YOU'VE ONLY LIVED THIS LONG THANKS TO US!
SIRA, WAKE UP! THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE!!
WE CAN'T BE THEIR LAB RATS FOREVER!!
ARE YOU HAPPY HERE?!
INCINERATION CHAMBER CLOSING IN 20 SECONDS.
....
INCINERATION CHAMBER CLOSING IN 10 SECONDS.

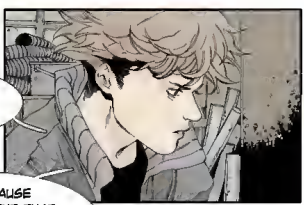
ARGH!!
CRACKLE
CRACK
RE
AK
INCINERATION CHAMBER CLOSING IN 5...
CLINK
4...
3...
CRACK
2...
1...
INCINERATION CHAMBER CLOSED.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

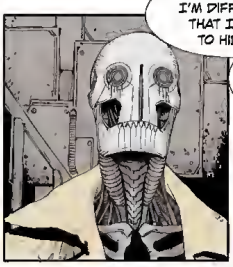
HRRR

RRRR
AH!

I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN YOUR ROOM.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU NOT TO DO THIS?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO OPERATE ON YOURSELF, AND EVEN IF IT WORKED, YOU'D DIE SOON ANYWAY.
THERE'S A LIMIT TO THE AMOUNT OF BLOOD YOU CAN REPLACE.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT FROM US, YURA.

SWIPE

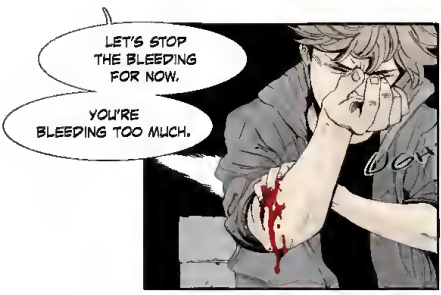

IT'S BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT THAT I'M HERE.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT THAT I WANT TO BE LIKE YOU, NO, EVEN STRONGER.


IT'S BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT, THAT I HAVE TO HIDE...
AND BE SCARED...

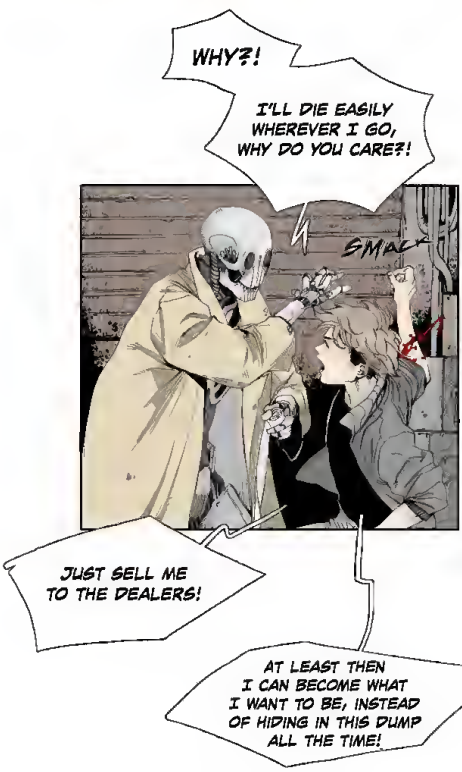
AND BE PROTECTED, LIKE A KID.
WHY CAN'T I BE LIKE THE MACHINES?
WHY COULDN'T I BE BORN STRONG?
EVERYONE... IS STRONG, WHY AREN'T I?

I...
I WANT TO BE LIKE THEM TOO!
NO, I HAVE TO BE STRONGER!
I NEED A STRONG BODY THAT DOESN'T GET DAMAGED!

SIGH...


LET'S STOP THE BLEEDING FOR NOW.
YOU'RE BLEEDING TOO MUCH.

THAT'S ENOUGH. SIT.
GRRR


WHY?!
I'LL DIE EASILY WHEREVER I GO, WHY DO YOU CARE?!
SMACK
JUST SELL ME TO THE DEALERS!
AT LEAST THEN I CAN BECOME WHAT I WANT TO BE, INSTEAD OF HIDING IN THIS DUMP ALL THE TIME!

DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE MULTIPLE LIVES OR SOMETHING?

YOU CAN'T BE RIGHT EVERY TIME.

YOU'LL GIVE YOURSELF UP TO THE DEALERS AND WHAT?? BECOME STRONGER??

YOU WANT A BODY THAT DOESN'T GET INJURED AND DOESN'T BLEED?

THAT'S JUST THE SHELL.

YOU'RE BLAMING YOUR SHELL. YURA, POWER ISN'T ABOUT WHETHER YOU'RE MADE OF FLESH OR STEEL!

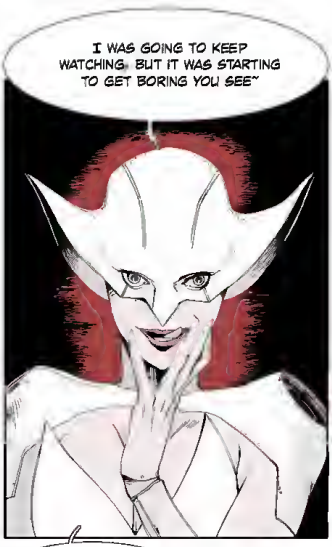
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S JUST THE SHELL. I JUST DON'T WANNA FEEL ANY PAIN.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS LONG AS I CAN BE STRONGER THAN EVERY OTHER MACHINE!

YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M FROM.

I NEED TO BECOME STRONGER THAN THOSE GUYS IF I WANT TO SAVE SIRA.

WOW~ YOU WERE ALL ARGUING SO LOUDLY, I COULDN'T EVEN INTERFERE!



IT WAS AN INTERESTING STORY, BUT...I PREFER ACTIONS OVER WORDS.

SOPHIE, YOU...!

HEY, YURA.

TO BE CONTINUED..

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